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To: <robert_wolinsky@mdd.uscourts.gov>
cc:
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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The proposal is little more than an effort by Microsoft to gain another market--the only market left in the industry--via the schools. Apple has provided schools with discounted hardware and software since the early 80's, this seems like a rather disingenuous offer to those of us working with low income communities and schools.

It should be noted that free software is already available (StarOffice from Sun) and that computers donated by corporations are almost always available to these schools. Teaching poor people how to use expensive equipment and software, that they will not be able to afford, is a waste of resources. I would be very critical of this solution, it would do more harm than good by wiping out the last stronghold Apple has to offer a competing product.

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"Equal access to technology is THE civil rights issue of the 21st century"--Steve Case, AOL